

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please add FIG. 3 as attached.

REMARKS

Claims 9-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8 have been cancelled. New claims 9-17 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. The subject matter of new claims 9-17 not in original claims 1-8 is supported, for example, at page 5, lines 21-24 and Fig. 1(a) of the application (claims 9 and 10); page 9, lines 21-24 of the application (claim 12); and page 6, lines 7-14 of the application (claim 14).

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to because they do not show the claimed single-layer platform. Applicants submit herewith a proposed drawing correction to add new Figure 3. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. The subject matter of Figure 3 is supported, for example, at page 9, lines 21-23 of the application. Applicants believe the proposed drawing corrections are fully responsive to the Examiner's concerns.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is moot, since claim 5 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,327,494 (Sakai) in view of Japanese Patent Document JP 09033327 (Katsumi). This rejection is moot, since claims 1-8 have been cancelled.

New independent claim 9 is allowable over the cited references, because neither Sakai nor Katsumi, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests claim 9's two-layer platform configuration comprising an inner (i.e., lower) board and a transparent outer (i.e., upper) board, wherein the area of the top surface of the inner board is smaller than the area of the top surface of

the transparent outer board. This is an important feature of the invention of claim 9 because it enables a measuring apparatus to be designed such that when the apparatus is placed on a floor, the floor can be seen through a portion of the transparent outer board that is not covered by the inner board. This feature permits access to the bottom surface of the outer board from the bottom side of the board, allowing attachment of a paper or label bearing a caution notice, instructions, or the like to the bottom surface of the outer board after assembly of the platform. Applicants note that, in contrast to claim 9, the Katsumi reference teaches that its transparent upper sheet 2 has a *smaller* area than its mounting bed 1, which includes recessed portion 9 and bed portion 8. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to combine the transparent sheet of Katsumi with the electrodes of the Sakai reference to yield the invention of claim 9.

Likewise, new independent claim 12 is allowable over the cited references, because neither Sakai nor Katsumi, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests claim 12's configuration of a transparent plate as a measuring platform and a load sensor unit mounted to the measuring platform, wherein the area of the top surface of the load sensor unit is smaller than the area of the top surface of the measuring platform. This is an important feature of the invention of claim 12 because it enables a measuring apparatus to be designed such that when the apparatus is placed on a floor, the floor can be seen through a portion of the transparent platform that is not covered by the load sensor unit. This feature permits access to the bottom surface of the platform from the bottom side of the platform, allowing attachment of a paper or label bearing a caution notice, instructions, or the like to the bottom surface of the platform after assembly of the platform to the load sensor unit. Applicants submit that it would not have been obvious to combine the transparent sheet of Katsumi with the electrodes of the Sakai reference to yield the invention of claim 12.

Accordingly, it is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants therefore respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, if any, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted

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